## LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A fault monitoring method, comprising the steps of:

providing ~~of a commodity management radio communicating apparatus in which plural~~ a plurality of portable radio communication terminals in a commodity management system, each of which manages ~~manage~~ commodities by communicating with an inventory controller via a radio communication base station, ~~said fault monitoring method comprising:~~

~~a step of~~ automatically executing a test of a radio communication section in ~~said~~ arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when a number of retrying times of radio communication between said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals and said radio communication base station exceeds a predetermined number of times; and

~~a step of~~ displaying a fault of said radio communication section on a display section of said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when said fault occurs.

2. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A fault monitoring method of ~~the commodity management radio communicating apparatus according to Claim 1,~~ a plurality of portable radio communication terminals used in a commodity management system, each of which manages commodities by communicating with an inventory controller via a radio communication base station, said fault monitoring method comprising:

a step of automatically executing a test of a radio communication section in arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when a number of retrying times of radio communication between said portable radio communication terminals and said radio communication base station exceeds a predetermined number of times; and

a step of displaying a fault of said radio communication section on a display section of said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when said fault occurs,

wherein a call time interval of retrying said radio communication between said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals and said radio communication base

15    station is set longer than an average communication time of said radio communication

16    between each of said portable radio communication terminals and said radio

17    communication base station in said commodity management system.

1    3.     (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A fault monitoring method of ~~the commodity~~

2    ~~management radio communicating apparatus according to Claim 1,~~ a plurality of

3    portable radio communication terminals used in a commodity management system,

4    each of which manages commodities by communicating with an inventory controller

5    via a radio communication base station, said fault monitoring method:

6    a step of automatically executing a test of a radio communication section in

7    arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when a number of retrying times of

8    radio communication between said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals

9    and said radio communication base station exceeds a predetermined number of times;

10    and

11    a step of displaying a fault of said radio communication section on a display

12    section of said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when said fault

13    occurs,

14    wherein said test for said radio communication section is executed after

15    checking that said radio communication between each of said portable radio

16    communication ~~terminal~~ terminals other than said arbitrary portable radio

17    communication terminals and said radio communication base station is vacant

18    continuously in a case out of an execution prohibiting time zone in said commodity

19    management system.

1    4.     (Currently Amended). The fault monitoring method of a plurality of portable

2    radio communication terminals used in ~~the~~ a commodity management system ~~radio~~

3    ~~communicating apparatus~~ according to Claim 3, wherein said test for said radio

4    communication section is executed after passing a predetermined time by returning to

5    a check of a vacant state in said case out of said execution prohibiting time zone in

6    said commodity management system when said radio communication between each of

7    said portable radio communication ~~terminal~~ terminals other than said arbitrary

6

8    portable radio communication terminals and said radio communication base station

9    and is waited for until said vacant state.

1    5.    (Currently Amended).  The fault monitoring method of a plurality of portable

2    radio communication terminals used in the a commodity management system radio

3    communicating apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said test for said radio

4    communication section is executed after passing a predetermined time by returning to

5    a check of said execution prohibiting time zone of said test in a case in said execution

6    prohibiting time zone in said commodity management system and is waited for until

7    out of said execution prohibiting time zone.

1    6.    (Currently Amended)  The fault monitoring method of a plurality of portable

2    radio communication terminals used in a the commodity management system radio

3    communicating apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said test for said radio

4    communication section is executed after passing a predetermined time by returning to

5    a check of said execution prohibiting time zone of said test in a case in said execution

6    prohibiting time zone in said commodity management system and is waited for until

7    out of said execution prohibiting time zone.

1    7.    (Currently Amended).  A storage medium storing a fault monitoring program

2    to cause a computer to carry out a fault monitoring method of a plurality of portable

3    radio communication terminals in a commodity management system, each of which

4    manages radio communicating apparatus in which plural portable radio

5    communication terminals in a commodity management system manage commodities

6    by communicating with an inventory controller via a radio communication base

7    station, said fault monitoring method comprising:

8          a step of automatically executing a test of a radio communication section in

9    said arbitrary portable radio communication terminals when a number of retrying

10   times of radio communication between said arbitrary portable radio communication

11   terminals and said radio communication base station exceeds a predetermined number

12   of times; and

7

13       a step of displaying a fault of said radio communication section on a display

14    section of said <u>arbitrary</u> portable radio communication terminals when said fault

15    occurs.


1    8.    (Original)  A fault monitoring program to cause a computer to carry out a fault

2    monitoring method of a <u>plurality of</u> ~~commodity management radio communicating~~

3    ~~apparatus in which plural~~ portable radio communication terminals in a commodity

4    management system<u>, each of which manages</u> ~~manage~~ commodities by communicating

5    with an inventory controller via a radio communication base station, said fault

6    monitoring method comprising:

7       a step of automatically executing a test of a radio communication section in

8    ~~said~~ <u>arbitrary</u> portable radio communication terminals when a number of retrying

9    times of radio communication between said <u>arbitrary</u> portable radio communication

10    terminals and said radio communication base station exceeds a predetermined number

11    of times; and

12       a step of displaying a fault of said radio communication section on a display

13    section of said <u>arbitrary</u> portable radio communication terminals when said fault

14    occurs.